

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates,
which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised LCST and/or UCST polymer,
wherein said surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates are holographic pigments, pearlescent pigments, interference pigments, multilayered pigments, metal-effect pigments, goniochromatic pigments and/or BiOCl pigments,
which surface-modified effect pigments are prepared by applying the LCST and/or UCST polymer to the surface of the effect pigments by precipitation in water and/or an organic solvent, and
irreversibly immobilizing said LCST and/or UCST polymer on the surface of the effect pigments.
2. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer sheath has layer thicknesses of 2 – 500 nm.
3. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the LCST polymer is a polyalkylene oxide compound, olefinically modified PEO-PPO copolymers, polymethyl vinyl ether, poly-N-vinylcaprolactam, ethyl(hydroxyethyl)cellulose, poly(N-isopropylacrylamide) or polysiloxane, or a mixture thereof.
4. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the UCST polymer is a polystyrene, polystyrene copolymers or polyethylene oxide copolymers, or a mixture thereof.
5. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the LCST polymer is a polysiloxane modified with olefinic groups.

6. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer sheath additionally comprises one or more nanoparticles, polymerizable ~~polymerisable~~ monomers, plasticizers ~~plasticisers~~, antioxidants, carbon-black particles, microtitanium or a mixture thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 6, wherein the polymer sheath comprises 0.001 to 150% by weight of one or more additives, based on the polymer.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the effect pigments are based on natural or synthetic mica, Al₂O₃ flakes, TiO₂ flakes, SiO₂ flakes, Fe₂O₃ flakes, glass flakes, ceramic flakes or graphite flakes.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1 ~~A process according to Claim 10~~, wherein one or more additives are added to the polymer.

12. (Previously Presented) A surface coating, water-borne coating, powder coating, paint, printing ink, security printing ink, plastic article, concrete, cosmetic composition, agricultural sheeting, tarpaulin, laser marking on a paper or plastic article, pigment composition or dry preparation, comprising surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1.

13. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for light protection or corrosion protection comprising applying surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1 to an article that is to be protected from light or corrosion.

15. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised UCST polymer.

16. (Currently Amended) Surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates, which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised LCST and/or UCST polymer, wherein said surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates are holographic pigments, pearlescent pigments, interference pigments, multilayered pigments, metal-effect pigments, goniochromatic pigments and/or BiOCl pigments, which surface-modified effect pigments are prepared by applying the LCST and/or UCST polymer to the pigment surface by precipitation by controlling the temperature in water and/or in an organic solvent followed by irreversibly immobilizing the LCST and/or UCST polymer on the surface of the pigment.

17. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments according to claim 16, where the immobilization of the LCST and/or UCST polymer on the surface of the pigment is achieved by the cross-linking of the polymer.

18. (Previously Presented) Surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates, which are sheathed with one or more layers of immobilised LCST and/or UCST polymer such that the LCST and/or UCST polymer does not form a chemical bond with the effect pigments, wherein said surface-modified effect pigments based on flake-form substrates are holographic pigments, pearlescent pigments, interference pigments, multilayered pigments, metal-effect pigments, goniochromatic pigments and/or BiOCl pigments.

19. (New) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the precipitation is achieved by
dissolving the LCST polymer in the water and/or organic solvent at a temperature below the lower critical solution temperature to obtain a solution,
mixing the effect pigments with the solution to obtain a mixture,
raising the temperature of the mixture to or above the lower critical solution temperature, whereby the LCST polymer deposits onto the surface of the effect pigments.

20. (New) Surface-modified effect pigments according to Claim 1, wherein the precipitation is achieved by
dissolving the UCST polymer in the water and/or organic solvent at a temperature above the upper critical solution temperature to obtain a solution,
mixing the effect pigments with the solution to obtain a mixture,
lowering the temperature of the mixture to or below the lower critical solution temperature, whereby the UCST polymer deposits onto the surface of the effect pigments.

21. (New) Surface-modified effect pigments according to claim 1, where the immobilization of the LCST and/or UCST polymer on the surface of the pigment is achieved by the cross-linking of the polymer.